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The Honorable Tom Davis
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), we are writing to seek your support of the Patent Reform Act of 2007 (PRA) which was simultaneously introduced in the U.S. Senate (S.1145) and the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1908) in April. We believe that passage of this legislation is necessary to restore a fair balance to our patent system and to safeguard the health of our economy here in Virginia and across the nation.

NVTC's membership includes 1,100 companies from all sectors of the technology industry including the information technology, software/hardware, Internet, ISP, telecommunications, bioinformatics, aerospace, and nanotechnology sectors, as well as the service providers that play an important role in supporting these companies. Every sector of Virginia's growing and diverse technology community relies on a fair, reasonable and clear process for obtaining and enforcing patents in order to foster innovation, economic growth and investment.

Given Virginia's role and reputation as a global technology leader, it is critical that the companies and entrepreneurs that choose to create and innovate here are able to rely on fair, strong and balanced patent protections to safeguard their intellectual property rights and investments. It is also essential that patent protections reliably guard inventions, while not intentionally stifling technological progress or encouraging harmful speculation.

Even as they are inventing the future, Virginia entrepreneurs and businesses face an outdated, legacy patent system that was largely shaped over fifty years ago. It is system that increasingly promotes abusive patent litigation, frivolous claims, forum shopping, and the proliferation of low quality patents and "over-patenting." In order to increase our global competitiveness, patent law must be updated and reformed to accurately reflect the complexity of today's technology economy in Virginia and throughout the United States.

Patent reform is an issue with strong bipartisan, bicameral support. For the sake of consumers, businesses small and large, and America's global competitiveness we fully support passage of the Patent Reform Act of 2007. As a member of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, we urge you to co-sponsor this bill and support its passage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John C. Lee, IV
Chairman

Bobbie Kilberg
President & CEO

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